

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 SCI-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 SAJ-01

AF-10 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 /186 W

----- 124913

R 311331Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3539

INFO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, XF

SUBJ: IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY CONDEMNS U.S. ALERT

REF: MOSCOW 13462 (NOTAL)

1. STRONGLY WORDED IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY OCTOBER 31 REPEATS SOVIET CONDEMNATION OF U.S. MILITARY ALERT AND ASSERTS EUROPEAN ALLIES REFUSED TO SUPPORT AMERICA BECAUSE ITS ACTION CONTRADICTS SPIRIT OF DETENTE.

2. COMMENTATOR (MILHAILOV) ASSERTS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RECONCILE SOVIET POLICY, WHICH IS IN INTEREST OF ME PEACE, WITH
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INFLAMMATORY RUMORS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS IN ME AND PARTI-

CULARLY WITH EFFORTS OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO JUSTIFY THE ALERT OF
U.S. FORCES.

3. QUOTING TASS STATEMENT (REFTEL) THAT AMERICAN ACTION WAS
TAKEN TO INTIMIDATE USSR, COMMENTARY CONTENDS THAT NEITHER U.S.
PRESS NOR AMERICA'S EUROPEAN ALLIES SUPPORTED THE U.S. ACTION
FOR WHICH EVEN SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WAS UNABLE TO PRODUCE
SATISFACTORY JUSTIFICATION. U.S. PRESS, MIKHAILOV SAYS, NOTED
THAT WASHINGTON WAS SEEKING WAY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL
PROBLEMS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ALMOST UNIVERSALLY CONSIDERS THAT
THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR U.S. ALERT. EUROPEANS REFUSED TO SUPPORT
U.S. FOR SEVERAL REASONS: DESIRE TO PRESERVE ARAB OIL SUPPLIES,
ANNOYANCE AT U.S. FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH ALLIES, AND ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM AND U.S.

.4. HOWEVER, COMMENT CONCLUDES, MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR STRONGLY
NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO U.S. MEASURES BY AMERICAN PRESS AND
EUROPEAN STATES LIES IN FACT THAT ACTION CONTRADICTS SPIRIT OF
NEW TIMES AND OF DETENTE WITH WHICH EVERY STATESMAN MUST
RECKON IF HE IS CONCERNED WITH HIS AUTHORITY.
DUBS

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30 JUN 2005

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